

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 H-02 SS-15

NSC-05 DODE-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 STR-01

OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 FEAE-00 CU-02 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-09

ERDA-05 ERDE-00 /137 W

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O R 111735Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6556

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USNATO 103

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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DEPT PLEASE PASS SECSTATE PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: EEC

SUBJECT: EC SUMMIT: HIGHLIGHTS - MIDAFTERNOON MARCH 11:
RENEGOTIATION HUNG UP ON NEW ZEALAND CHEESE

SUMMARY: AT MID-AFTERNOON ON WHAT IS PROBABLY FINAL DAY OF EC SUMMIT, THE PROBLEM OF BRITISH PAYMENTS APPEARS CLOSE TO SOLUTION. THERE IS TROUBLE, HOWEVER, OVER QUESTION OF ACCESS TO MARKET OF NEW ZEALAND CHEESE. ON ENERGY, EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HAVE DECIDED TO PROPOSE HOLDING FULL-SCALE CONFERENCE IN JULY. ON CSCE, EC NOW APPEARS READY TO ACCEPT JULY SUMMIT CONFERENCE AND POSSIBLY TO MAKE SOME ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS TO SOVIETS. END SUMMARY

1. AT MID-AFTERNOON TUESDAY, MARCH 11, SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS WERE STILL HOPING TO WIND UP TONIGHT, POSSIBLY VERY LATE. THERE WAS SOME TALK ABOUT CARRYING OVER INTO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12.

2. UK RENEGOTIATION: ACCORDING TO TINDEMANS, THE QUESTION OF BRITISH PAYMENTS TO EC BUDGET IS WELL ON THE WAY TO BEING SETTLED. THE SUMMIT HAS, HE SAYS, "RETURNED TO ORTHODOXY" BY TAKING THE COMMISSION'S EARLIER PROPOSALS AND TURNING THEM OVER TO A GROUP OF EXPERTS TO WORK OUT THREE ALTERNATIVE MODELS. ALL THREE MODELS HAVE NOW BEEN GIVEN BACK TO THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. ALL THREE APPEAR GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE, AND IT NOW SEEMS MAINLY A QUESTION OF PICKING THE BEST ALTERNATIVE.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE QUESTION OF NEW ZEALAND DAIRY PRODUCTS HAS, ALSO ACCORDING TO TINEMANS, TAKEN ON "ENORMOUS PROPORTIONS." HE COMMENTED THAT THIS SEEMS "A BIT PREPOSTEROUS." THE PROBLEM OF BUTTER CAN PROBABLY BE SOLVED, BUT THERE IS STRONG OPPOSITION TO CHANGING TERMS OF NEW ZEALAND CHEESE IMPORTS. PROTOCOL 18 TO THE TREATY OF ACCESSION EXCLICITELY STATES THAT CHEESE WILL NOT QUALIFY FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT. FRANCE, DENMARK, AND THE NETHERLANDS -- AS LEADING DAIRY PRODUCERS WITHIN EC -- ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO CHANGE. SOME FEAR HAS BEEN EXPRESSED THAT NEW ZEALAND CHEESE COULD ACTUALLY BE A BREAKING POINT. DUTCH SOURCES, HOWEVER, HAVE INDICATED THAT A SOLUTION FOR NEW ZEALAND CHEESE COULD BE WORKED OUT UNDER THE CAP, THEREBY AVOIDING A HIGHLY COMPLICATED ALTERATION OF THE TREATY PROTOCOL.

4. ENERGY: AN IRISH SOURCE SAYS EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HAVE DECIDED TO SUGGEST HOLDING THE FULL ENERGY CONFERENCE IN JULY.
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BASED ON A PROPOSAL FROM SCHMIDT, A HIGH-LEVEL EC GROUP WILL MEET TO UNDERTAKE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE CONFERENCE. ONE QUESTION TO BE DECIDED IS WHETHER THE CONFERENCE WILL BE A CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE" OR A "NORTH/SOUTH CONFERENCE." THE MAIN DIFFERENCE, WE GATHER, IS THAT A NORTH/SOUTH CONFERENCE WOULD INCLUDE MORE POOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. CSCE: A GERMAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT THE NINE HAVE AGREED TO

RECOMMEND A "QUICK CONCLUSION OF THE CSCE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL," SUBJECT TO THE "CURRENT COMMUNITY PRE-CONDITIONS." DESPITE THIS REFERENCE TO "PRE-CONDITIONS," WE GATHER THAT EC HAS IN FACT AGREED TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE AND THAT MEMBERS WHO WERE COOL TO AN EARLY SUMMIT HAVE NOW TEMPERED THEIR OBJECTIONS. DURING DISCUSSIONS ON CSCE, THERE WAS TALK OF BREZHNEV'S DETERIORATING HEALTH. SOME PARTICIPANTS THOUGHT THAT HE HAD SERIOUS THYROID TROUBLE AND MIGHT NOT LAST LONG. SOVIET LEADERSHIP HAS NOT, HOWEVER, USED HIS ILLNESS AS AN EXCUSE TO GET HIM OUT OF THE WAY, WHICH (ACCORDING TO THESE PARTICIPANTS) MAY BE EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP AS A WHOLE FAVORS DETENTE. EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WERE THEREFORE INCLINED TO SELECT AN EARLY TARGET DATE FOR CONCLUDING THE CSCE, IN HOPES THAT BREZHNEV WILL BE ABLE TO SIGN PERSONALLY. (COMMENT: LIKE THE OTHER INFO IN THIS CABLE, THE INTERPRETATION OF CSCE DEVELOPMENTS CANNOT YET BE VERIFIED WITH DIFFERENT SOURCES, BUT VIEWPOINT GIVEN IS PROBABLY AT LEAST A VALID PERSONAL ASSESSMENT BY SOURCE.) MOORE

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